4) When a parent class has subclasses that inherits from it the DTYPE column appears. The reason is that the ORM (eclipselink) realizes there are classes that inherits from the DiscountType class. Each column in the DiscountType class now has a DTYPE which can either be a discountfixed type or a discountquantity (the types of the subclasses). Then when we make an object we can say: DiscuntType df = new DiscountFixed or DiscountType dq = new DiscountQuantity.

5) The single table strategy only makes one table with all the fields from all the subclasses whereas the joined strategy makes a table for each subclass so that both DisountFixed and DiscountQuantitiy gets its own table in the database. The last solution is the best if you have many inherted subclasses or else you get really big tables which could lead to poor performance.